

### **REMARKS**

Upon entry of the present amendment, claims 24-37 will remain pending in the above-identified application and stand ready for further action on the merits. Claims 38-40 have been cancelled. Claims 24-37 stand allowed.

No new matter is being introduced by the present amendment.

#### ***Double Patent Rejection***

Claims 38-40 have been rejected on the grounds of obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1-23 of US 5,923,625. Reconsideration and withdraw of the rejection is respectfully requested based on the cancellation of claims 38-40 herein.

#### ***Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102(b)***

Claims 38-40 have been rejected under the provisions of 35 USC S 102(b) over Okazaki et al. US 5,357,493. Reconsideration and withdraw of the rejection is respectfully requested based on the cancellation of claims 38-40 herein.

### **CONCLUSION**

In view of the above amendment, applicant submits that the pending application is now in condition for allowance.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact John W. Bailey (Reg. No. 32,881)

Application No. 09/321,795  
Amendment dated March 15, 2006  
Reply to Office Action of December 21, 2005

Docket No.: 2282-0127P

at the telephone number below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated:

March 15, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By 

John W. Bailey

Registration No.: 32,881

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

8110 Gatehouse Road

Suite 100 East

P.O. Box 747

Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747

(703) 205-8000